

Memory – Andrew Lloyd Webber (Easy Piano solo) from Cats

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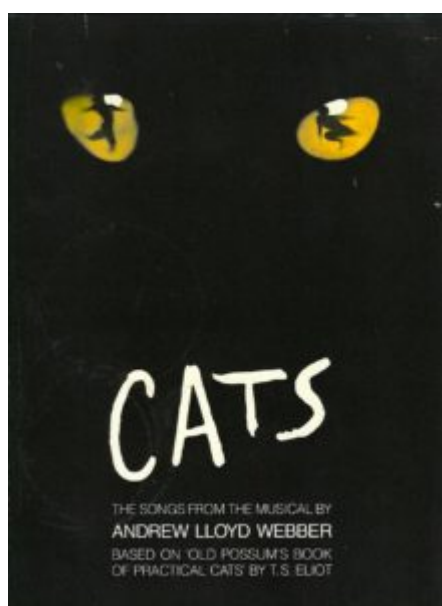
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Andrew Lloyd Webber

Andrew Lloyd Webber, Baron Lloyd-Webber (South Kensington, London, March 22, 1948) is a British composer, writer, author, producer and director, director of numerous plays at the end of the 20th century. He has produced 16 musicals, two soundtracks and a Latin Requiem Mass. His awards include three Tonys, three Grammys, an Oscar, an Emmy, seven Oliviers and a Golden Globe.

His company, Really Useful Group, is one of the most important in London. Some of the songs from his theater plays, such as Don't Cry For Me, Argentina (from Evita) and Pie Jesu (from his Requiem Mass) have been successful in Europe and America outside theatrical performances and have been sung by many artists.

Lloyd Webber had a string of back-to-back hits throughout the '70s and '80s collaborating with lyricist Tim Rice. The two were commissioned to write Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat for the Edinburgh Institute. The musical was a success; parts of the work were rewritten and produced at the Edinburgh Festival.

Lloyd Webber and Rice continued to collaborate, producing Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita. Both were first released on albums before being brought to the stage. After the premiere of Evita, the collaboration between the two broke down.

For the libretto for Cats, Lloyd Webber based it on a play by T.S. Eliot, Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, a childhood favorite of Lloyd Webber. Cats became the musical work that has been on the bill for the longest time: more than 20 years. He later wrote Starlight Express and an adaptation of the story of The Phantom of the Opera written by Gastón Leroux.

Some of his musicals have been brought to the big screen. Jesus Christ Superstar in 1973 directed by Norman Jewison,

Evita in 1996 directed by Alan Parker with Madonna as the lead, The Phantom of the Opera in 2004 directed by Joel Schumacher and Cats in 2019 directed by Tom Hooper.

Lloyd Webber was commissioned to compose a piece for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics: the song Amigos para siempre, recorded by Sarah Brightman and Josep Carreras.

In 2009 he composed the theme that represented the United Kingdom in the Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow, 'It's My Time', performed by Jade Ewen. Lloyd Webber set himself the challenge of returning the United Kingdom to the good positions that had previously characterized it in this contest, and he succeeded, taking the theme to fifth place in the final. He accompanied Jade on the piano for her performance.

Works

The Likes of Us (1965)

Lyrics by Tim Rice
Book by Leslie Thomas
Not produced until 2005

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (1968)

Lyrics by Tim Rice

Jesus Christ Superstar (1970)

Lyrics by Tim Rice

Jeeves (1975)

Book and lyrics by Alan Ayckbourn
Revised in 1996 as By Jeeves

Evita (1976)

Lyrics by Tim Rice

Tell Me on a Sunday (1979)

Lyrics by Don Black

Cats (1981)

Lyrics based on Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats by T. S. Eliot

Additional lyrics after Eliot by Richard Stilgoe and Trevor Nunn

Song and Dance (1982)

Lyrics by Don Black (revised by Richard Maltby Jr. for Broadway)

Combination of Variations (1978) and Tell Me on a Sunday (1979)

Starlight Express (1984)

Lyrics by Richard Stilgoe

Later revisions by Don Black and David Yazbek

Inspired by The Railway Series books by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Cricket (1986)

Lyrics by Tim Rice

First performed for Queen Elizabeth II's 60th birthday

The Phantom of the Opera (1986)

Lyrics by Charles Hart

Additional Lyrics by Richard Stilgoe

Book by Richard Stilgoe and Andrew Lloyd Webber

Based on the novel by Gaston Leroux

Aspects of Love (1989)

Lyrics by Don Black and Charles Hart

Book by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Based on the David Garnett novel

Sunset Boulevard (1993)

Book and lyrics by Christopher Hampton and Don Black
Based on the Billy Wilder film (1950)

Whistle Down the Wind (1996)

Lyrics by Jim Steinman
Book by Patricia Knop, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Gale Edwards

The Beautiful Game (2000)

Book and lyrics by Ben Elton
Updated as The Boys in the Photograph (2009)

The Woman in White (2004)

Lyrics by David Zippel
Book by Charlotte Jones
Based on the Wilkie Collins novel
Based on elements of the short story The Signal-Man by Charles Dickens[111]

Love Never Dies (2010)

Book & Lyrics by Glenn Slater
Book by Ben Elton & Frederick Forsyth
Additional lyrics by Charles Hart

The Wizard of Oz (2011)

Book by Andrew Lloyd Webber & Jeremy Sams
Music by Harold Arlen
Lyrics by E.Y. Harburg
Additional music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Additional lyrics by Tim Rice
Based on the 1939 motion picture The Wizard of Oz

Based on the 1900 novel The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

Stephen Ward (2013)

Book and lyrics by Christopher Hampton and Don Black

School of Rock (2015)

Lyrics by Glenn Slater
Book by Julian Fellowes
Based on the 2003 film

Cinderella (2021)

Lyrics by David Zippel
Book by Emerald Fennell
Based on the classic story

Cats

Cats is a musical composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber from T. S. Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats collection of poems. Its plot revolves around the Jellic cat tribe during the night when they make 'the jellic choice' and decide which of them will be reborn into a new existence. Among his famous songs, the theme 'Memory' stands out, which has become a standard and has been covered by multiple artists.

Directed by Trevor Nunn and choreographed by Gillian Lynne, the musical debuted in 1981 in the West End and made its way to Broadway a year later, winning numerous awards including the Olivier and Tony for Best Musical.

The original London production ran for twenty-one years and the New York one for eighteen, both setting new records. Actresses Elaine Paige and Betty Buckley, who originated the Grizabella character in London and Broadway respectively, are especially associated with this musical.

Cats ranks fourth on the list of longest-running shows in Broadway history and sixth on the West End list. In addition, it has been released in numerous countries throughout the world and has been translated into many languages. In 2019 it was brought to the big screen under the direction of Tom Hooper.